(b) the State-wise number of such complaints received by Government wherein it has been stated that parents of martyrs have lost their financial support after losing their sons; and

(c) the concrete action taken by Government on such complaints?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) There have been complaints of this nature. As a result of these complaints, the different Record Offices of the Army recommended, division of Liberalised Family Pension/*ex-gratia*, etc., between parents and widows of the deceased soldiers. Consequently, Liberalised Family Pension, and/or other benefits have been divided between parents and the widows in 23 cases, in the recent past. The State-wise number of such cases is as under:

Andhra Pradesh	—	1
Gujarat	—	1
Haryana	—	2
Himachal Pradesh	—	1
Jammu and Kashmir	—	2
Maharashtra	—	1
Orissa	—	1
Punjab	—	1
Rajasthan	—	1
Uttar Pradesh	—	6
Uttaranchal	—	2
West Bengal	—	1

In addition, 3 cases pertain to pensioners residing in Nepal.

Casualties of Army Personnel in Accidents

2547 SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 army personnel were killed in accidents between December 19, 2001 to March 15, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons for such heavy casualties; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to avoid such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The reasons behind such incidents are being analyzed from time to time and suitable policy instructions/guidelines are issued to minimize such accidents.

Use of private trucks by MoD for transportation of its goods

2548. SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Defence is using private trucks for transporting goods/arms/ammunition of the Ministry from one place to another; and

(b) if so, the number of trucks the Ministry, on an average is using per year for transporting its goods?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Different types of civil transport such as, trucks, light vehicles and buses are hired by the formation/units of Defence Forces. Separate details of hiring trucks are maintained at the field formation and unit/depot level and are not available at the Ministry/Army Headquarters. However, the total amount spent on hiring of all types of civil transport, including trucks, during the last three years is as given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Financial Year		Amount
1999-2000	—	166.84
2000-2001	—	151.10
2001-2002 (Upto February 2002)	—	116.02